

REMARKS

Reexamination and reconsideration of the application as amended are requested. Claims 5 and 15 have been written in independent form.

The examiner's rejection of claims 1, 2, 11 and 12 as being obvious, under 35 USC 103, is respectfully traversed. The examiner rejects these claims as being unpatentable over Duclos '087 in view of WIPO 01/51826 (using US 6,749,045 to Rosenfeldt as an English equivalent).

It is noted that claims 1 and 11 require the hydraulic-mount partition plate assembly 12 to have a longitudinal axis 40 and the hydraulic-mount decoupler 14 to be disposed entirely radially outward from the rheological-fluid second orifice 26. With this in mind, in Duclos the rheological-fluid second orifice is considered to be the radially innermost opening of valve 50b, wherein such radially innermost opening is radially innermost to the longitudinal axis, not shown, of the hydraulic-mount partition plate assembly 12 shown in figure 2 of Duclos, and wherein the decoupler 60 of Duclos is disposed entirely radially outward from such second orifice.

Claim 2 depends from claim 1, and claim 12 depends from claim 11. Claims 1 and 11 specify that the rheological-fluid second orifice 26 have a second end 34 disposed at the second side 22 of the hydraulic-mount partition plate assembly 12 and specify that the second membrane portion 36 fluidly-isolate, on the second side 22 of the partition plate assembly 12, the second end 34 of the rheological-fluid second orifice 26 from the second terminus 30 of the non-rheological-fluid first orifice 24. The examiner alleges that this is shown in Duclos. Applicants respectfully disagree. On the one hand, if in figure 2 of Duclos the second end of the rheological-fluid second orifice (such orifice shown in the radially innermost opening of valve 50b) is considered to be disposed at the bottom end of valve 50b, then such second end is not disposed at the second side (bottom surface) of the hydraulic-mount partition plate assembly 12 as required by applicants' claims 1 and 11. On the other hand, if in figure 2 of Duclos the second end of the rheological-fluid second orifice (such orifice shown in the radially innermost opening

of valve 50b) is considered to be disposed at the second side (bottom surface) of the hydraulic-mount partition plate assembly 12, then the second membrane portion 46b does not fluidly isolate such second end from the second terminus of the non-rheological-fluid first orifice (whether such first orifice is considered to be 36a or 36) as required by applicants' claims 1 and 11.

Claims 2 and 12 specify that the electric coil 16 is substantially coaxially aligned with the longitudinal axis 40 of the hydraulic-mount partition plate assembly 12 (see applicants' figure 1). Duclos shows two separate rheological chambers 48a and 48b each having a separate and separately-electrically-controlled field producing valve 50a and 50b (see figure 2, column 5, lines 22-25, and column 6, lines 13-15). As shown most clearly in figure 3 of Duclos, such valves 50a and 50b are not coaxially aligned with the longitudinal axis of the hydraulic-mount partition plate assembly 12. Replacing valve 50b (or 50a) with a magnetorheological valve having an electric coil and a magnetorheological-fluid orifice will not result in the electric coil being substantially coaxially aligned with the longitudinal axis of the hydraulic-mount partition plate assembly as required by applicants' claims 2 and 12.

The examiner's rejection of claims 3, 4, 13 and 14 as being obvious, under 35 USC 103, is respectfully traversed. The examiner rejects these claims as being unpatentable over Duclos '087 in view of WIPO 01/51826 (using US 6,749,045 to Rosenfeldt as an English equivalent) and further in view of Takano ('031). Claims 3 and 4 each depend from claims 1 and 2 and claims 13 and 14 each depend from claims 11 and 12. Applicants' previous remarks concerning the patentability of claims 1, 2, 11 and 12 over Duclos and Rosenfeldt are herein incorporated by reference. Takano does show annular electric plates forming a substantially annular second orifice. However, placing an annular second orifice (and an associated electric coil to make the annular second orifice a magnetorheological-fluid orifice) in chamber 48b (or chamber 48a) in Duclos will not result in the annular second orifice being substantially coaxially aligned with the longitudinal axis of the hydraulic-mount partition plate assembly 12 as required by applicants' claims 3 and 13. Regarding claims 4 and 14, in figure 2 of Duclos disposing a second orifice radially outward from an electric coil to replace the space occupied by valve 50b undoubtedly

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would result in the decoupler 60 no longer being disposed entirely radially outward from the second orifice as required by intervening claims 1 and 11.

The examiner's objection to claims 5-10 and 15-20 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim is respectfully traversed. Applicants have rewritten claims 5 and 15 in independent form as suggested by the examiner.

Inasmuch as each of the objections and rejections has been answered by the above remarks and amended claims, it is respectfully requested that the objections and rejections be withdrawn, and that this application be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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